AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

<u>In the Specification</u>:

Please amend the specification in the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 27, as follows:

> The exemplary method of Figure 3 includes inserting (306), in accordance with the dependencies (316), rows ([[316]] <u>315</u>) of data into the fact table (312) and rows (318) of data into the dimension tables ([[318]] <u>314</u>). In the kind of method illustrated in Figure 3, inserting (306) rows ([[316]] <u>315</u>, 318) of data typically includes determining whether related dimension data exists for each foreign key in each row of data inserted into the fact table and, for each foreign key for which related dimension data does not exist, inserting a row of dimension data into a dimension table related to the fact table through the foreign key. In the method according to Figure 3, inserting (306) rows ([[316]] <u>315</u>, 318) of data further is further carried out by determining whether related dimension data exists for each foreign key in each row of data inserted into a first dimension table, and, for each foreign key for which related dimension data does not exist, inserting a row of dimension data into a second dimension table related to the first dimension table through the foreign key. Because dependencies are often amenable to expression in tree structures and because recursion is a natural algorithmic technique for dealing with tree structures, inserting rows of fact data, first checking each foreign key against a dimension table and if a required dimension row does not exist, inserting it, first checking each foreign key in it against a further dimension table and if a required dimension row does not exist, inserting it, first checking ... may often be effected by use of recursion, as described in more detail below.

Please amend the specification in the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 21, as follows:

> In the exemplary method of Figure 3, inserting (306) rows ([[316]] <u>315</u>, 318) of data further comprises reading (320) the rows of data from a first database (328), the first database comprising dependencies (326) among tables in the database and inserting rows of data into a second database (308), the second database comprising at least the same dependencies as in the first database. That is, within the scope of the present invention, the source of data to be inserted in a target database can be any source, anywhere, not just another database. As a practical matter, however, method of populating databases according to embodiments of the present invention will often be carried out by drawing their source data from another database. It is useful to recognize, however, that the schema of the target database need not be the same as the schema of the source

database, so long as the dependencies expressed in the schema of the target database include at least sufficient dependencies to maintain desired referential integrity in the target database as it is populated according to embodiments of the present invention.

Please amend the specification in the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 9, as follows:

More particularly, inserting (306), in accordance with the dependencies (316), rows ([[316]] 315) of data into a fact table (312) and rows (318) of data into dimension tables ([[318]] 314) may be carried out as illustrated by the following exemplary pseudocode segment: